THE NORTH LONDON SCHOOL OF DRAWING.

We have seen with great pleasure a letter from the hon. Colonel Phipps, in reply to a communication soliciting Prince Albert's patronage of the suburban artisan schools of drawing. Colonel Phipps says:—"I have, by his Royal Highness's commands, made some inquiry into the working of these schools, and his Royal Highness was much pleased to hear that the attendance at them has already become larger than was expected at the time you wrote your letter. His Royal Highness being convinced that such instruction will be highly beneficial to the artisans, has commanded me to state that he willingly grants his patronage to this artisan art school; and I am further directed to enclose to you the accompanying cheque for 25*l.*, as a donation from the Prince to the funds for its support."

EARL DE GREY'S CONVERSAZIONE TO ARCHITECTS.

Earl de Grey opened his house to the members of the Institute of Architects on Friday evening, the 3rd inst., and invited, as heretofore, a large number of the nobility, their ladies, and men of science, to meet them. Many good sketches covered the tables, and the fine rooms of his lordship's mansion were crowded for some hours by a changing flow of visitors. We contemplated printing the names of all who were present, but find the list would occupy more space than we can spare. The Council of the Institute were about to issue cards for a conversazione in Grosvenor-street, but this was of course superseded by Earl de Grey's well-timed invitation.

On Monday Earl de Grey will preside at the meeting of the Institute, and the royal medal will be presented to Mr. Barry.

LORD LONDESBOROUGH'S CONVERSAZIONE.

On Wednesday, 8th, Lord Londesborough entertained, with very elegant hospitality, at his residence in Piccadilly, a large number of gentlemen, eminent in the literary, artistic, and scientific world. An exceedingly fine collection of works of art and antiquity were gathered together for the occasion, with an illustrated index as a memento for visitors, and ladies were not wanting to add to the agreeableness of the meeting.

Previously to the *conversazione*, Lord Londesborough received at dinner Professor Brand, Professor Wheatstone, Mr. Roberts, R.A., Mr. Maclise, R.A., Mr. Jerdan, Mr. Planché, Mr. John Forster, Mr. J. O. Halliwell, Mr. T. Wright, Sir Edward Belcher, Mr. Fairholt, Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. Arden, Rev. Mr. Barlow, Mr. Godwin, and others. We mention this pleasant first step on the part of Lord Londesborough as one worthy of imitation by others of the same station.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Another strike has taken place amongst the nailmakers throughout the Dudley district, in consequence of an attempt, on the part of some of the masters, to reduce wages 10 per cent. Many thousands are idle, and the district is in a very disturbed state, although no complaints have hitherto been made of the men's conduct.——It is intended to fill the five lights of the Ladye Chapel, in Hereford Cathedral, with painted glass, according to the local *Times*, as a testimonial to the late Dean of Hereford.——It is proposed to erect three large school-rooms, and two houses for teachers, for poor children in the district of St. John, Durdham Down, Bristol: about 400*l.* are still wanted, about as much having been already subscribed, besides at least as much more expected from the National Society, the Council on Education, and a Diocesan fund.——About 3,000*l.* have now been subscribed, in 25*l.* shares, for the erection of a town-hall at Merthyr large enough to hold the quarter sessions.——Large sums, amounting to about 14,000*l.*, have been promised for the erection of a sort of monastic institution for women of the Church of England, under Miss Sellon, at Devonport, to cost 18,000*l.*, and to comprise accommodation for thirty "sisters," and for a number of orphans, with an infirmary, school-rooms, &c. A site, it is said, has been purchased.——The salt water baths on St. George's pier-head at Liverpool have been purchased by the Corporation, and are to be converted to public use at low rates of charge, in addition to those already in operation. During the last year, says the *Albion*, the attendance at the baths in Paul-street has almost doubled. Last week no fewer than 1,443 attended, the receipts being 18*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*: the attendance same week last year was 772; receipts, 10*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* In Paul-street, a hot bath may be had for 2*d.*, and these are in most request. The new baths in Cornwallis-street are being rapidly proceeded with. Mr. Newlands has visited Nottingham to see the interior decorations of the baths and washhouses in that borough, with a view of adopting some of the improvements introduced there. The Cornwallis-street baths and washhouses are expected to be completed in September.——St. Ann-square, Manchester, according to the local *Spectator*, is about to be improved at the corner nearest the Exchange, by the erection of a new structure for shop and offices, from designs by Mr. Gregan, architect. The two front walls will be rounded off into one, so as to open up a view of the Exchange portico, and widen the thoroughfare.——A Mechanic's Institute is to be erected at Ashton: the Earl of Stamford and Warrington has promised a site, and subscriptions (one for 100*l.* from Mr. W. C. Hindley), will be forthcoming.——In aid of an Athenæum at Bury, Sir R. Peel has subscribed 100*l.*—— St. Andrew's Church, Bywell, says the *Gateshead Observer*, has been re-opened, after undergoing certain repairs and restorations.——The principal castings of the Wellington Statue at Edinburgh, by Mr. Steell, are now being taken at a foundry erected for the purpose.——A cenotaph is about to be erected at Fullarton, Ayrshire, on the property of the Duke of Portland, to the memory of the late Lord George Bentinck.—— St. Michael's church, Milverton, was re-opened on Wednesday in last week. It has undergone an extensive restoration under the direction of Mr. Hayward, of Exeter. The piers of the south aisle and of the chancel arch, which were out of the perpendicular, have been rebuilt in Bath stone. The exterior as well as interior has been generally restored. The total cost, when complete, will be about 3,000*l.*, mostly raised in voluntary contributions.—— A new church, erected at the cost of Mr. Sidney Herbert, has been opened at Sandymount, one of the marine suburbs of Dublin.

Books.

Westminster: Memorials of the City, St. Peter's College, the Parish Churches, Palaces, Streets, and Worthies. By the Rev. M. E. C. Walcott, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, curate of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and author of the history of that church. Masters, 78, New Bond-street.

Westminster is historic ground, England's classic centre indeed, within whose consecrated limits is concentred an immense amount of historical and archæological interest, so that it would be scarcely possible, we should think, with average diligence and research, to prepare any popular work on its ancient memorials that would not repay the effort to peruse it. Much more, then, may such a work teem with popular as well as special antiquarian interest, when compiled with all the advantages of learning and judgment evidently possessed by the present author, who, besides, occupies a position which not only enables him to reach resources not available to every one, but to enhance the attractions of judicious selection and curious research by all the inducements of a labour of love. It is a singular fact, however, that such a work on so distinguished a subject was still awanting in an age of popular awakening like the present; nevertheless, such is the fact; but Mr. Walcott's endeavour to supply the desideratum appears to be a successful one, although the interest of his pages is by no means exclusively popular, albeit they do not constitute such an inexhaustible quarry of antiquarian lore as alone would satiate some lovers of ancient relics. To remind our readers in general of what they may expect to interest and amuse them in such a volume, it is really unnecessary, unless for form's sake, even to name such places as St. Stephen's, the Abbey, the Star Chamber, Old Palace Yard, New Palace Yard, the Sanctuary, Privy Gardens, Whitehall, Holbein's Gate,—or the antecedents of Downing-street, and other sites of modern classic interest. Our present object is merely to draw the attention of our readers to a book that will interest them, though our space and time prevent us at this moment from extending our notice into an article itself of interest, based on Mr. Walcott's researches, and which they will so readily yield.

Miscellanea.

Metropolitan Sewers Commission.—At the last monthly meeting, Lord Ebrington in the chair, the court was crowded with parties summoned for refusing to construct drains and remove nuisances. It seemed to be unknown whether owners or tenants were liable; but the court stated that they possessed the power to summon either owner or occupier, and that they intended in future to do all the necessary works themselves if their orders were not attended to, charging those summoned, and leaving landlords and tenants to settle as to who was ultimately to bear the burden. Mr. Foster then reported his views as to the drainage of the town of Richmond, with reference to the investigations of Mr. Donaldson and Mr. Bazellegette. A system of pipe drainage, at a cost of 7,850*l.*, was recommended by Mr. Foster, to run into the Thames at the railway bridge immediately below Richmond, through a drain running along the railway. If, however, it were thought expedient to experiment on the application of the sewage to agricultural purposes, the main pipe drain might be extended across the railway into Richmond old park, where the sewage might be collected and applied to the surrounding ground. Of an ultimate system or general scheme for the drainage of the towns on the south bank of the Thames to some point below London, the scheme now recommended might afterwards form a portion. Leave was then given to the Sewage Manure Company to construct drains so as to draw off a portion of the sewage of Fulham-road and Chelsea. Leave was also given to the surveyor of the eastern district to connect certain sewers in Broadwall with the chimney of Messrs. Davey and Co.'s coke ovens in Old Barge-house-street, for the purpose of ventilating the sewers.—The difficulty with which applicants for leave to build sewers get replies is much complained of.

Old Bricks.—Notwithstanding the cessation of the duty on bricks, there appears to be a good demand for old ones in the neighbourhood of Witham; for, according to the *Chelmsford Chronicle*, about 10,000, sold by auction on Monday last, at Witham-place, realised from 18*s.* to 21*s.* per thousand.

Tottenham Surveyorship.—You are so bold an advocate for the dignity of our profession that I feel no apology necessary for intruding upon you on this occasion. The advertisement for this appointment requires gentlemen to be competent to *scheme, lay out*, and carry into execution the *whole* of the drainage of the town, with the disposal of the sewage matter and the provision of the water supply, three of the most important matters now occupying public attention, and certainly most essential to the public health: the remuneration offered is 120*l.* per annum. Now, if the worthies of Tottenham are at all up to their work, they will know that to accomplish all they require, and to do their duty effectually, the services of an engineer practically acquainted with such matters must be secured,—one who has well informed himself upon these subjects, and who is thoroughly acquainted with sanitary movements and improvements of the day. Short of this, they had better do the job in the ancient "churchwarden style," and secure it to some favoured youth well supported by parish influence, and not appeal to the profession, in which I trust there is none —"no, not one"—who will accept their shabby offer for so important an office. The profession and the public are, I conceive, alike interested in this matter.

An Old Subscriber.

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